

ICT: Key to a Pandora's Box?

Uppsala, Sweden
April, 2008

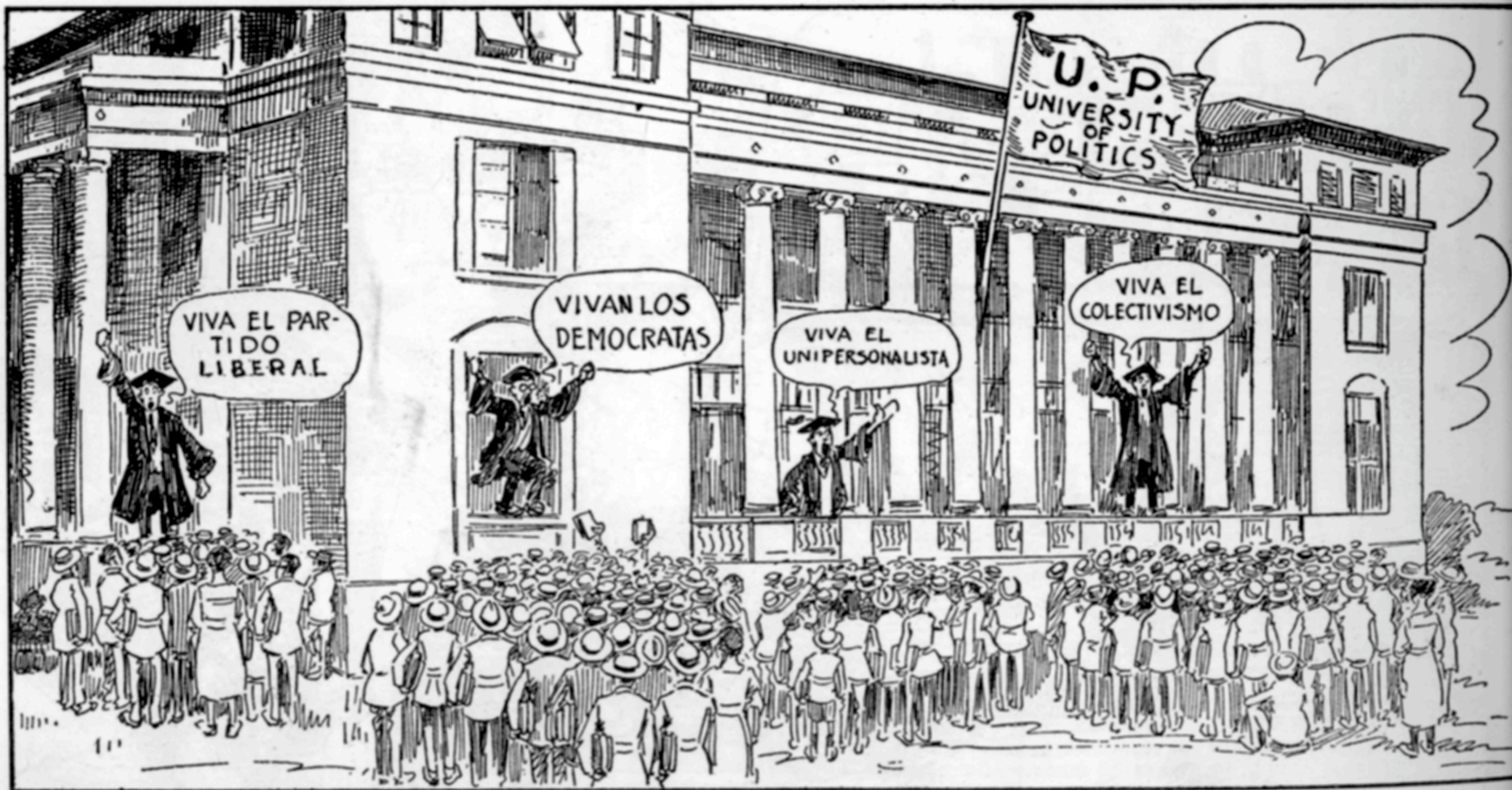
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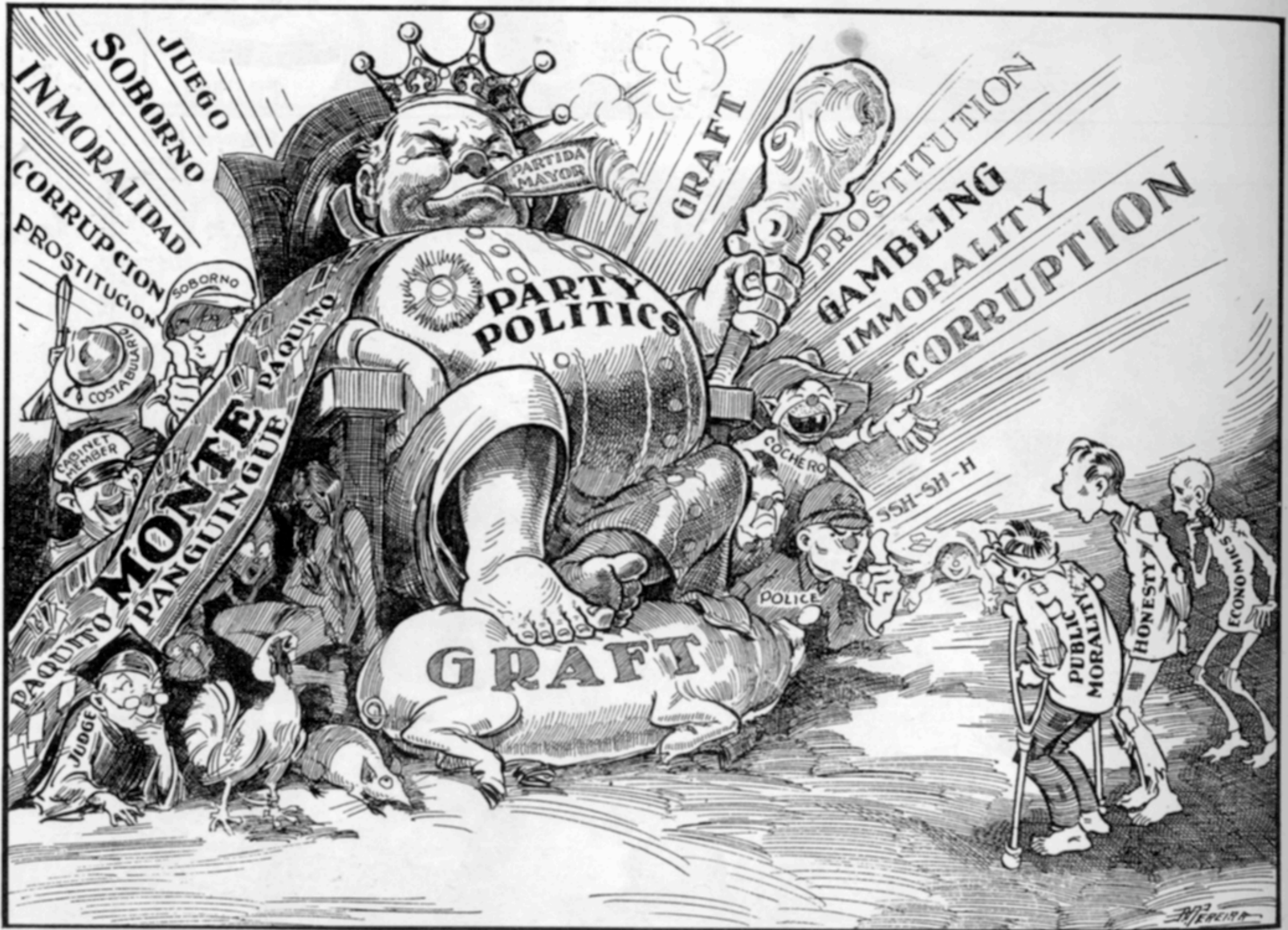
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Ludwig & Paula

J. Maria



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ASIANOW

JANUARY 29, 2001 VOL. 157 NO. 4

People Power Redux

The Philippine people took to the streets and ousted President Estrada—but who really made the key decisions that sealed his fate?

By SANDRA BURTON Manila

ALSO

New Boss: Arroyo returns to the palace she grew up in

Viewpoint: Where does democracy end and mob rule begin?



Aaron Favila/AP.

Joseph Estrada leaves the presidential palace on Jan. 20 after resigning earlier in the day.

There is something intoxicating about the sight of hundreds of thousands of civilians taking to the streets, protesting corruption and demanding justice. Those thousands of marching feet, beating hearts and waving placards become in our minds' eye the physical manifestation of democracy's soul. How can they be wrong? They are the people. And the people, after all, are democracy.



What transpired last week in Manila had all the makings of democracy on the hoof: protesters, rousing speeches, People Power—just like the glorious revolution that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos so dramatically, and virtually bloodlessly, nearly 15 years ago. The emotion of the moment carried the day, and one felt cynical questioning the motives of the people or the alleged corruption of departed President Joseph Estrada. But what actually happened behind the scenes is

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Editor's Corner

Texting as a political tool

By : Mong Palatino | YEHEY! In-house Production
22 January 2008 | 8:40 AM

Texting first became popular in the Philippines during the late 1990s when Joseph Estrada was the president of the country. Filipino cell phone users, maximizing the free texting service offered by phone companies, began sending text jokes about the incompetence of Estrada. This proved effective in undermining the credibility of the former president.

Text jokes were subsequently used as a creative form of protest against other notorious public figures, especially politicians. People continued to use texting to express their disenchantment with the policies of the government.

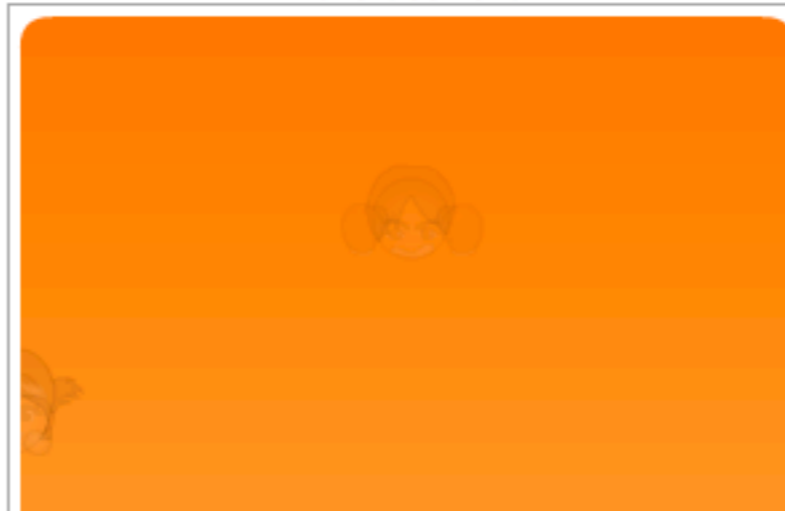
Seven years ago, the historic uprising in Edsa Street which came to be known as People Power II eventually led to the downfall of Estrada. For the first time in Philippine history, texting was recognized as a vital tool for political mobilization. Four days of gatherings, both spontaneous and organized, brought hundreds of thousands of people to Edsa, facilitated by texting.

A few months after People Power II, phone companies announced a plan to charge a fee for every text message sent by cell phone users. This angered Filipino texters. The consumer group Txtpower called for a one-day text

Breaking News

- OIC sees progress for peace in Philippines
19 April 2008 | 6:30 PM
- Standard and Poor's affirms Philippines' stable outlook
18 April 2008 | 8:20 PM
- Philippines falls short on rice imports
18 April 2008 | 5:30 PM

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ICT Landscape

Literate



Special Release No. 193

Literacy Status of Filipinos

(Results from the 2003 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey)

About one in every 10 Filipinos 10 to 64 years old cannot read and write

According to the results of the 2003 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS), about one in 10 of the population 10 to 64 years old cannot read and write or basically illiterate ([Table 1](#)).

Basic literacy rate among females is higher (90.4 %) as compared with males (86.8 %) (Figure 1). Among regions, NCR has the highest basic literacy rate with 97 percent. It is followed by Ilocos (Region I) and CALABARZON (Region IVA) with around 94 percent each. ARMM has the lowest rate with seven out of 10 persons aged 10 to 64 years considered as basically literate ([Figure 2](#)) and ([Table 2](#)).

Figure 1. Basic literacy rate of population 10 to 64 years by sex, Philippines 2003

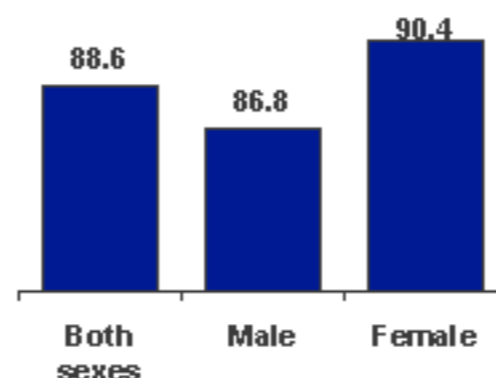


Figure 2. Basic literacy rate of population 10 to 64 years old by region Philippines 2003

Government data

Behind the times

TABLE M2. PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY OWNERSHIP OF RADIO, TV, VCR AND PERSONAL COMPUTER,
BY REGION, URBAN-RURAL: NOVEMBER 1994

REGION & OF HOUSEHOLDS AND WITHOUT RADIO, AREA CLASSIFICATION TV, VCR AND PC	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS (IN 1,000)	PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS REPORTING OWNERSHIP			
		RADIO	TV	VCR	PC
PHILIPPINES.	12,712	81.22	44.93	13.56	1.15
15.32					
URBAN	6,325	84.98	64.96	20.10	1.99
10.23					
RURAL	6,387	77.50	25.09	7.08	0.32
20.36					
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION . .	1,759	87.80	86.93	30.19	4.06
6.55					
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION					
URBAN	75	90.42	49.25	17.76	5.06
9.00					
RURAL	166	75.26	12.19	5.24	-
24.74					
REGION I - ILOCOS	704	82.21	51.81	11.77	0.44

The ICT Landscape

- 91,077,287 population
- 14,000,000 Internet users as of April, 2007, 15.4% penetration, says Yahoo
- 123,000 broadband subscribers as of Sept. 30, 2007, per ITU
- Penetration of cellular phones according to National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) chief Ronald O. Solis at 40 percent or about 35 million mobile phone users as of 2006.
- The Economist, hours, per capita, per week: 21 for TV; 9.5 for radio; 7.6 for reading, as of 2005.

Case Study: 2005





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Timeline of Hello Garci scandal

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The following is a **Timeline of Hello Garci scandal**.

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

1 June 2005

- 1.1 Monday, June 6
- 1.2 Tuesday, June 8
- 1.3 Friday, June 10
- 1.4 Saturday, June 11
- 1.5 Sunday, June 12
- 1.6 Monday, June 13
- 1.7 Tuesday, June 14
- 1.8 Friday, June 17
- 1.9 Saturday, June 18
- 1.10 Sunday, June 19
- 1.11 Monday, June 27
- 1.12 Wednesday, June 29

2 July 2005

- 2.1 Friday, July 1
- 2.2 Monday, July 4
- 2.3 Wednesday, July 6
- 2.4 Thursday, July 7
- 2.5 Friday, July 8

Crisis Mode

The news: crisis mode

- June 6, 2005: Press Secretary presents “fake” and “authentic” recordings of conversations (A & B)
- June 8, 2005: Opposition lawyer says he has recordings (Their A is his C)
- June 10, 2005: Former NBI official says he has original A (his D), from which B & C were culled.
- June 11, 2005: Government denies tapes prove vote manipulation
- Unresolved, to date (April, 2008)

INSIDE PCIJ: Stories behind our stories

"Gloria-Garcillano" Tapes

AT least five versions of the alleged taped conversations between Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano have come out in the media. Atty. Alan Pagua's version is about 30 minutes, apparently taken from the three-hour-long recording in Atty. Samuel Ong's possession, the one the former NBI deputy director refers to as "the mother of all tapes."

Three-Hour Tape (MP3 Format)

[1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#) | [6](#) | [7](#) | [8](#) | [9](#) | [10](#) | [11](#) | [12](#) | [13](#) | [14](#) | [15](#) | [16](#) | [17](#) | [18](#) | [19](#) | [20](#) | [21](#) | [22](#) | [23](#) | [24](#) | [25](#) | [26](#) | [27](#) | [28](#) | [29](#) | [30](#) | [31](#) | [32](#) | [33](#)

Pagua Tape (MP3 Format)

[1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#) | [6](#) | [7](#) | [8](#)

Bunye "Original" (MP3 Format)

[1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#)

Bunye "Spliced" (MP3 Format)

[1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#)

Lacson Tape (MP3 Format)

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[Luz Rimban](#)

[Sheila S. Coronel](#)

[Vinia M. Datinguinoo](#)

[Yvonne T. Chua](#)

The Media reaction

- June 6: asked to help copy and disseminate “genuine” and “fake” recordings by Press Secretary
- June 7: Major networks broadcast portions of the tapes
- June 11: Transcripts of some versions begin to be published
- June 12: Mass Media loses nerve as public takes up the slack
- June 14: Dissemination shifts on line

BY JOVE!

"an advertisement of one's overrated virtues by way of discussing the deplorable traits of others"

ABOUT ME



Name:

jove

Location:

manila, NCR,
Philippines

now a warning: i am very opinionated.

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P BLOG OF THE WEEK 07.15.05

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- [KRIS' YAP](#)
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THEY
MAKE ME
FEEL

TUESDAY, JUNE 07, 2005

WHEN DOES "HELLO" MEAN GOODBYE?



IT IS HER. "They Wire Tapped The President!"- Press Sec. Ignacio Bunye

But wait... Bunye also announced that there are **two versions, the original and the altered version**. The latter version, he implied was created to "make it appear that president arroyo tried to cheat during the last elections".

Counter-reaction

Counter-Reaction

— June 12, 2005: National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) issues warning: playing D tapes might result in closure of stations (citing Anti-Wiretapping law)

— June 13, 2005: KBP challenges warning; issues denunciation next day

— Networks and online news outfits cease playing tapes, remove transcripts, de-link files, upon legal advice (or political pressure); KBP says coast is clear on June 18, 2005 but no mass media media outfit has played or provided access to recordings since

— 2008: Supreme Court declares the NTC exercised “prior restraint” and voids the Department of Justice

June 19, 1965

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4200

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT AND PENALIZE WIRE TAPPING AND OTHER RELATED VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVACY OF COMMUNICATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Sec. 1. It shall be unlawful for any person, not being authorized by all the parties to any private communication or spoken word, to tap any wire or cable, or by using any other device or arrangement, to secretly overhear, intercept, or record such communication or spoken word by using a device commonly known as a dictaphone or dictagraph or dectaphone or walkie-talkie or tape recorder, or however otherwise described:
cda

It shall also be unlawful for any person, be he a participant or not in the act or acts penalized in the next preceding sentence, to knowingly possess any tape record, wire record, disc record, or any other such record, or copies thereof, of any communication or spoken word secured either before or after the effective date of this Act in the manner prohibited by this law; or to replay the same for any other person or persons; or to communicate the contents thereof, either verbally or in writing, or to furnish transcriptions thereof, whether complete or partial, to any other person: Provided, That the use of such record or any copies thereof as evidence in any civil, criminal investigation or trial of offenses mentioned in section 3 hereof, shall not be covered by this prohibition.

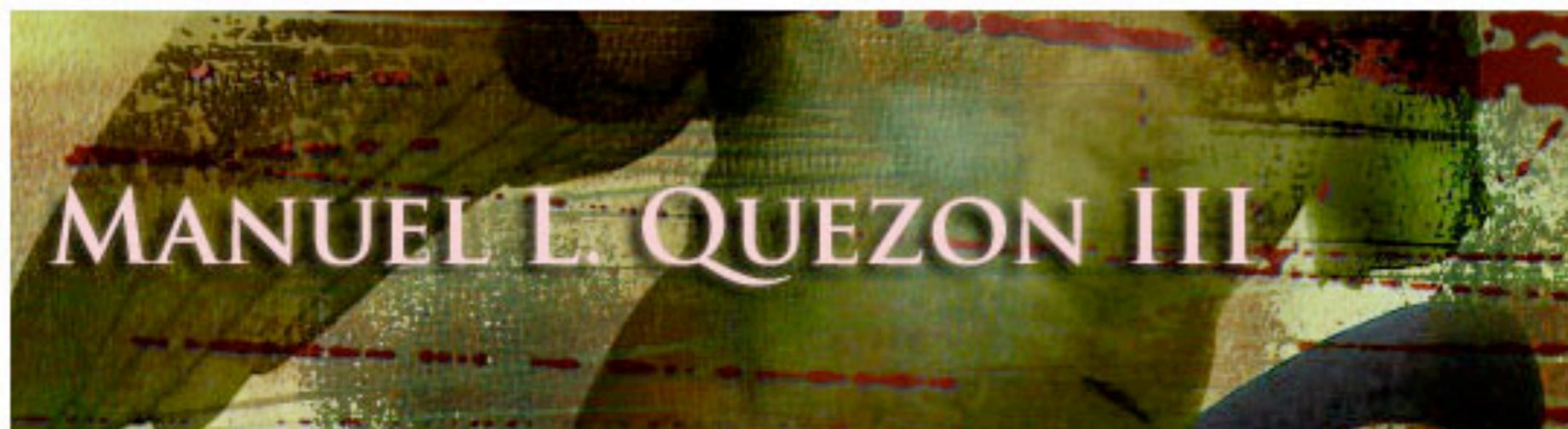
Sec. 2. Any person who wilfully or knowingly does or who shall aid, permit, or cause to be done any of the acts declared to be unlawful in the preceding section or who violates the provisions of the following section or of any order issued thereunder, or aids, permits, or causes such violation shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not less than six months or more than six years and with the accessory penalty of perpetual absolute disqualification from public office if the offender be a public official at the time of the commission of the offense, and, if the offender is an alien he shall be subject to deportation proceedings. acd

Sec. 3. Nothing contained in this Act, however, shall render it unlawful or punishable for any peace officer, who is authorized by a written order of the Court, to execute any of the acts declared to be unlawful in the two preceding sections in cases involving the crimes of treason, espionage, provoking war and disloyalty in case of war, piracy, mutiny in the high seas, rebellion, conspiracy and proposal to commit rebellion, inciting to

Public Reaction

Immediate questions

- [Which version? All or nothing?
- [Culpability under the law: Media, Public, Officials
- [Repercussions of defiance: Editorial versus Business; personal vs. institutional; old media vs. new media
- [Frustration: rebellion? subversion? surrender?
- [Delay in courts resolving cases



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✧ Thursday June 9, 2005

Media can't be held liable for releasing tapes

{ Visited 816 times }

Americans' Sense of Superiority Takes a Beating in Iraq: is my Arab News column for this week.

My PDI column for today is **Diplomats under fire**.

You may have noticed that Inq7.net's providing the controversial tapes for listening **has been suspended due to legal reasons**, probably advice that providing them to the public may not be wise. **Sassy Lawyer** gives a hint of what the legal reasons may be:

So... going back to the first part of the quoted portion of Section 1 of RA 4200, how many persons have violated RA 4200 so far? We have the actual wire-tappers, unnamed at this point; the person(s) to whom the CDs were given; this lawyer without a license Allan Pagua who edited the CDs; the radio commentators and radio stations that aired the contents of the CD... Then, we have the Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, live on TV, releasing what he

colophon

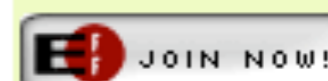
STOP THE HATE

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Tag-teaming the Authorities

The appeal

INSIDE PCIJ: Stories behind our stories

An appeal to bloggers

June 12, 2005 at 10:57 am · Posted by Alecks Pabico

Filed under [General](#)

WE are appealing to our fellow bloggers, especially those who have managed to download the MP3 files of the tapes and uploaded to file-sharing sites to give us their links so we can ease traffic to our sites while we continue to work on technical difficulties.

Your help is greatly appreciated in these distressing times. Thank you very much.

[Permalink](#)

9 Comments »

yuga said,

June 12, 2005 @ 11:26 am



Podcasting from the Philippines

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Tag-teaming: the response

- Mirror the data (individual bloggers)
- Spread the data (bloggers and media through BitTorrent)
- Take a stand: Defy the lawyers, publishers, and the authorities
- Provide information: Allow the public to judge for itself

Mirror & spread the data

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- ANONYMOUS

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PCIJ Mirror Site Downloads
published by yuga under **Orphaned** 10 months, 1 week ago.

(Visited 15269 times)

Heeding the [call for help](#) of [PCIJ's Alecks Pabico](#), I am putting out 3 mirror servers to host all the

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ATOM

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Wednesday, June 15, 2005

I'm still amazed that the local Internet community has not seen it fit to distribute Atty. Sammy Ong's infamous tape at all. So far, only the PCIJ bloggers have risen to the occasion by posting it [here](#). It must be a resource issue. At more than 160 megabytes, hosting the tapes on-line means using up one's monthly bandwidth in a day.

I understand traditional media outlets have succumbed to pressure from the government and have resigned themselves to discussing the existence of the tape without giving the public the benefit of hearing its contents first-hand.

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**FREEDOM
&
RESPONSIBILITY**



The online site of the Philippine-based Center for Media Freedom & Responsibility

Wednesday, 03.08.2005


PHILIPPINE JOURNALISM REVIEW (PJR)



JULY ISSUE
THE POWER OF THEIR WORDS
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[Blog Power in 2005](#)
by Alecks P. Pabico

[Blogging, New Journalism](#)
by Rachel E. Khan

[Eradicating Jueteng: Mission Impossible](#)
by Sixto K. Roxas



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Continuing Public
information questions

Public Information Questions

- [Claims of Executive Privilege fortified by Supreme Court
- [Lack of public concern over killings of media people; public applause over arrest of Journalists after “Peninsula Caper”
- [Legislative relief slow in coming (Freedom of Information Act advocacy)
- [Use of text messaging, social networking sites, blogs, to encourage debate and resistance; use of PowerPoint presentations to disseminate information
- [Aggressive use of mass media by government

Uses of ICT

- Dissemination of Formal/Informal Information
- Expression of Public/Group Sentiment
- Communication of Strategy
- Advocacy/Mobilization

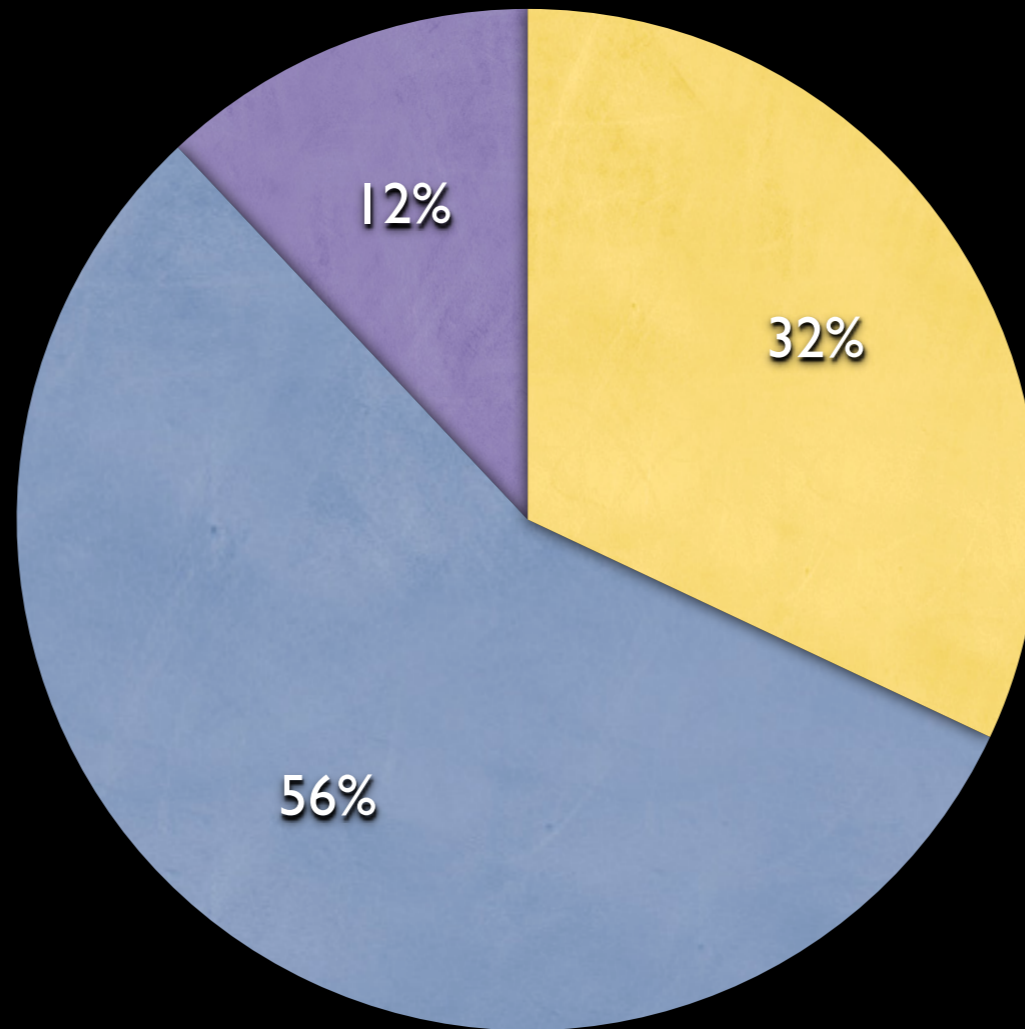
Forms of Harassment

- Surveillance: Wiretapping
- Disruption: Spamming/Jamming
- Intimidation: Libel & Seditious Laws

The Battle: Information, then Rights

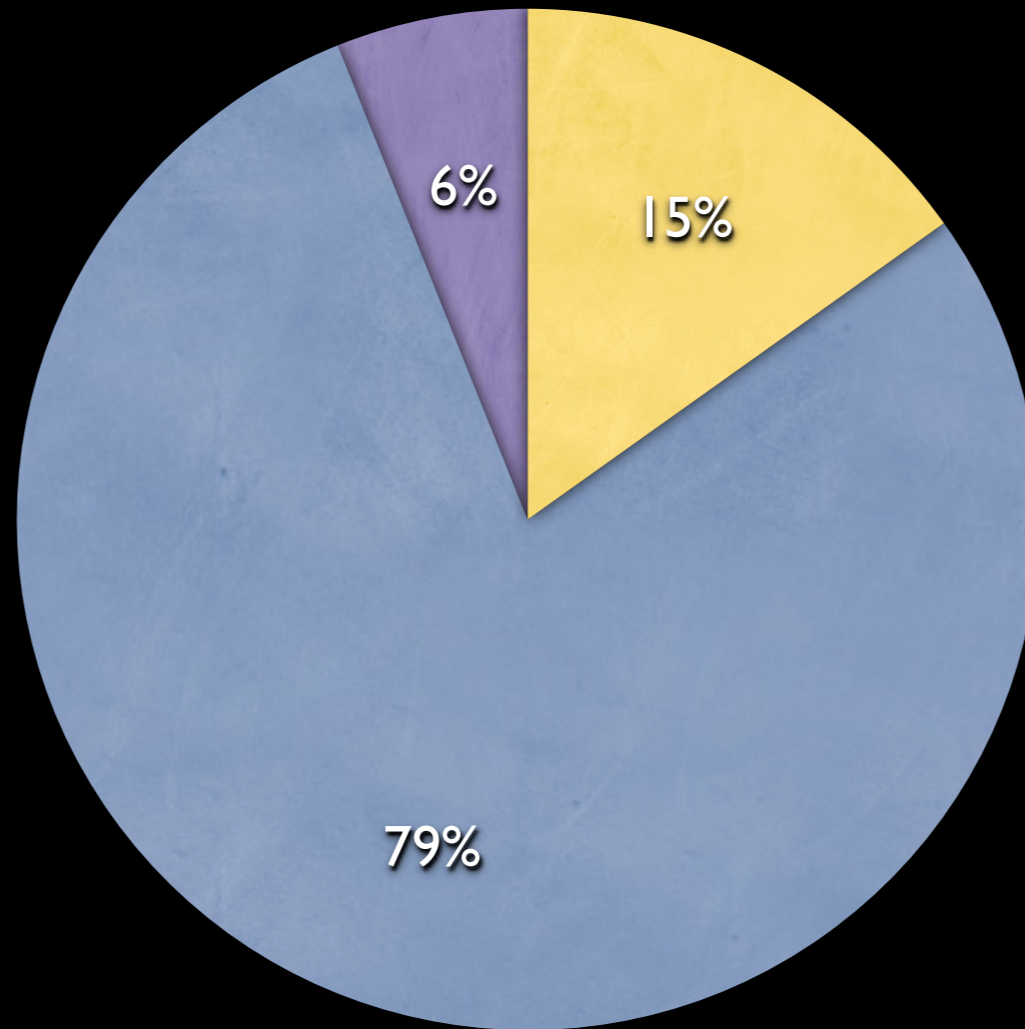
2006: Presidential to Parliamentary:

● In Favor ● Not in Favor ● Undecided



2006: You will not personally vote for President

● In Favor ● Not in Favor ● Undecided



Delayed institutional
response

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April 20, 2008 | Manila, Philippines

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Philippines: Supreme court rules that government warnings constituted prior restraint

PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2008 AT 5:48 PM

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CMFR/Philippines—The Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that threatening statements from the Justice secretary and the National Telecommunications Commission warning media not to air a wiretapped conversation between President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and an elections commissioner constituted “impermissible forms of prior restraints on the right to free speech and press.”

The 38-page decision, written by SC Chief Justice Reynato Puno on 15 February 2008, “nullif(ied) the official statements made by respondents on June 8, and 11, 2005 warning the media on airing the alleged wiretapped conversation between the President and other personalities, for constituting unconstitutional prior restraint on the exercise of freedom of speech and of the press.”

“Issues revolving on their construct must be decided on a case to case basis, always based on the peculiar shapes and shadows of

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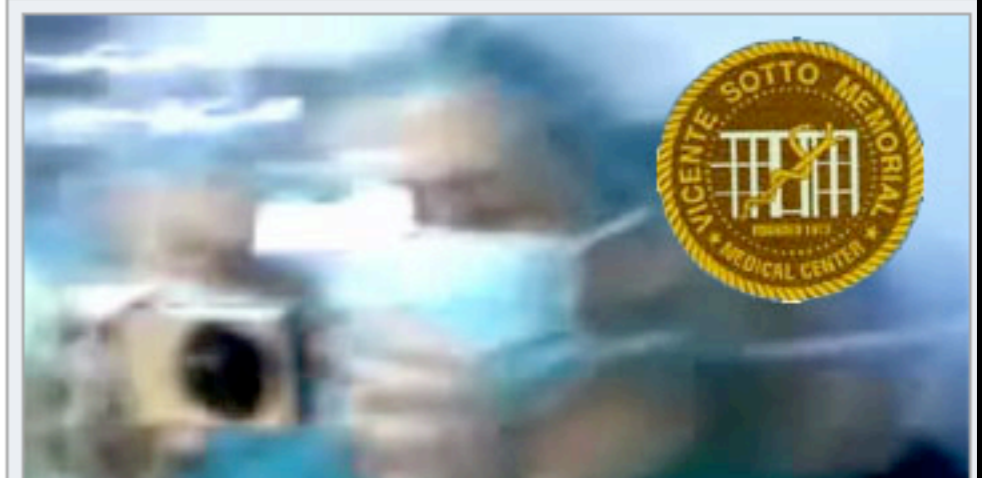
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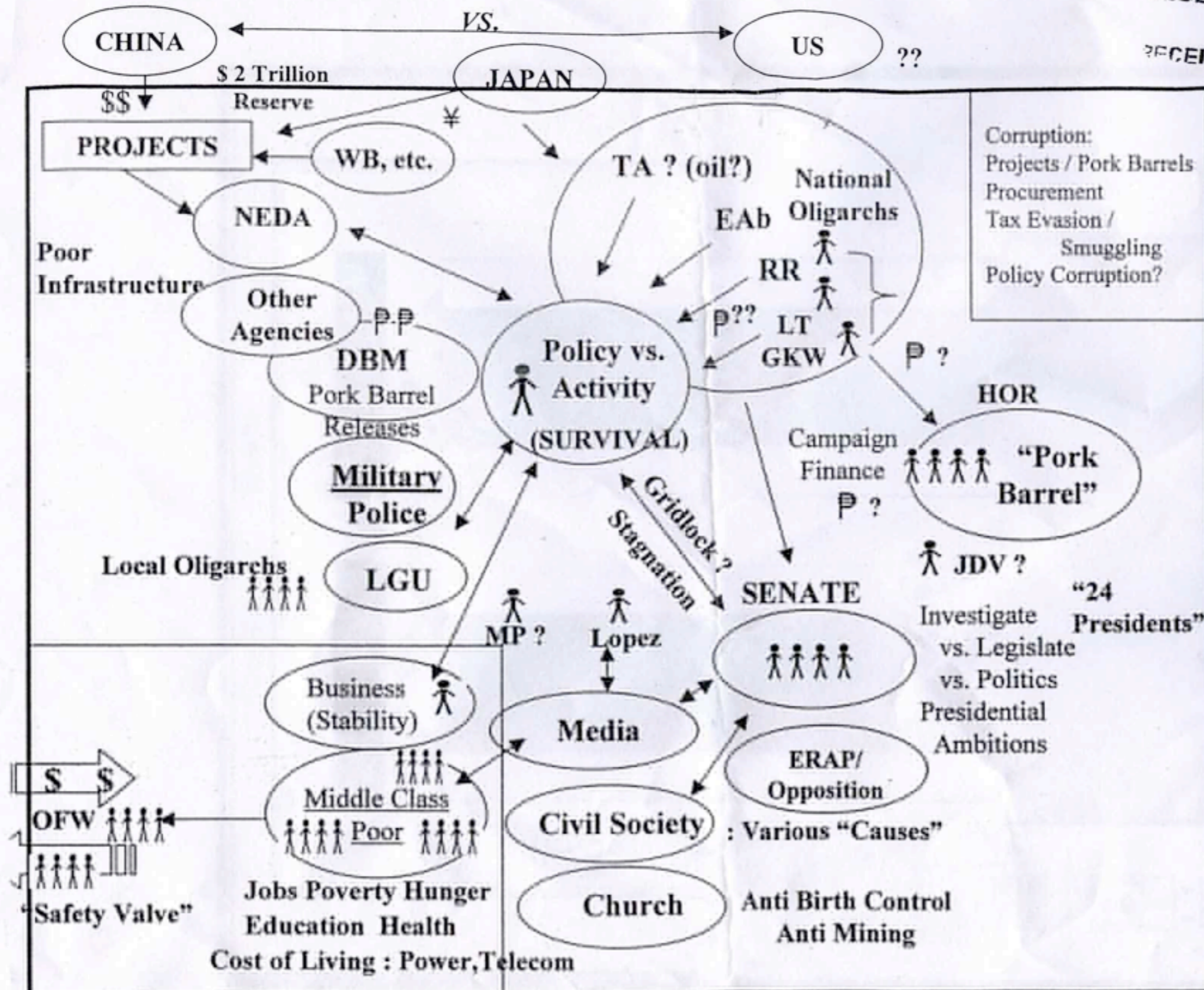
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2007-Present: NBN-ZTE Deal



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Freely-circulating PowerPoint presentation by Business World columnist Thads Bentulan on how the \$329 Million ZTE deal came to be, in terms of its final cost.

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Date: Sat, 27 Jul 2008 14:11:00 +0800
From: "Leo San Nigul" <leosanig@snail.com>
To: "dante madriaga" <dante_madriaga@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: phase 1-3

Dante,

I have attached a file to serve as a format psd check mo gna part and enter the data for the phase 2 and 3 the way we think the pricing of ZTE will be. I also failed to segregate the new features introduced by ZTE on their proposal

Manning Salamat
Leo

Attachments

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Death threats forced Malu Fernandez to resign?

Published by: [yuga](#) under: *Blogosphere*.

posted: August 24th, 2007 (Visited 6366 times)

Just read from [Marc Macuha's blog](#) that columnist **Malu Fernandez** of Manila Standard Today and People Asia has resigned and apologized for what she wrote on some of her recent articles.

This would have been a huge triumph for the blogosphere that have been very vocal against her — but *death threats*?

Demanding a public apology and outright dismissal from the said publication is a valid argument. Name calling and cursing is treading on thin line but is always expected in times of outpouring emotions. Making **death threats** is totally crossing the line.

GMANewsTV reports, quoting her:

Fernandez claimed that because of the article she became a subject of hate [blogs](#), a target of death threats and personal insults.

“Our society is bound together by human chains of kindness and decency. I have failed to observe this and I am now reaping the consequences of my actions.” Fernandez said.

Fernandez said she now truly understands the “insidiousness of discrimination and prejudice disguised as humor.”

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Enhanced Journalism

Nation, 3/26/2008 6:04 PM

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- Nani seeks SC's help, asks for TRO vs graft, extortion cases
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- Not enough rice to fill imports, latest tender 175,000 tons short

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- Kiko fails to convince Senate on motion to inhibit justices
- Senate warns Supreme Court on 'autocracy' in gov't
- Senators may still pin down GMA on NBN-ZTE deal
- Inside story: SC justices had pre-determined votes on Neri case
- GMA 'politically weak' but will finish her term--Eurasia

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NG NFA RICE SA PALENGKE

Ex-Cabinet members urge donors to fight 'systemic corruption'



By LALA RIMANDO
abs-cbnNEWS.com/Newsbreak

After appealing to president Arroyo and current government officials to face up to corruption scandals, the reforms advocacy group, Former Senior Government Officials (FSGO), has reached out to another audience: those who hold the development assistance purse.

In an open letter to the donor community, which held its annual consultative meeting with government officials Wednesday in Clark, Pampanga, the FSGO focused on how corruption "sucks scarce resources crucial to development that benefits the poor."

The FSGO is composed of around 90 former senior officials in various fields of government. It has called on Cabinet members of the Arroyo government to resign due to corruption and bad governance.

Related Link

- [An Open Letter for the Philippine Development Forum 2008](#)

Fund. Representatives from the United Nations, consultants and civil society organizations were present too.

The forum used to be a pledging session where the donor community meets national and local government officials who would usually rattle off their accomplishments and give a litany of what other additional development projects are needed. It has since evolved into a consultative dialogue of issues and goals.

Those who attended the Philippine Development Forum in Clark were bilateral and multilateral partners like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary

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The Perils and Pitfalls of Aid: ODA surge sparks scandals for Arroyo, debt woes for RP



Resigned Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos and former NEDA chief Romulo Neri testify before the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee on the scrapped multibillion-peso NBN project, September 2007.

By ROEL R. LANDINGIN
*Philippine Center for
Investigative Journalism*

First of Three Parts

FOREIGN aid inflows to the Philippines are soaring to their highest levels in about six years, but the availability of more money for government projects has not made life any easier for President Gloria

Macapagal Arroyo and Filipino taxpayers.

Indeed, the latest controversy to rock her seven-year reign stems from the sharp surge in official development assistance (ODA) from China, an emerging economic behemoth, and the Philippines' growing inability to impose its procurement policies and procedures on ODA projects.

A six-month study of project documents by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) also showed that seven of 10 projects reviewed fall short of economic benefits promised, even after completion and roll-out.

Serious flaws in the identification, design, evaluation, and implementation of

NEDA in Knots

Former economic planning secretary Felipe Medalla may have spoken in jest during a forum of previous chiefs of the National Economic and Development Agency (NEDA) last September when he said there are two NEDAs.

TODAY'S POLL:

Is the Vatican right in admonishing Gawad Kalinga for its 'overemphasis on social work'?

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The Perils and Pitfalls of Aid: Bids sans caps, tied loans favor foreign contractors

By ROEL R. LANDINGIN
Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

Second of Three Parts

For Antonio Molano Jr. and other government engineers at the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), it felt like being in "Groundhog Day," the Bill Murray movie about a cynical TV reporter who kept reliving the same day over and over again.

Over a span of four years, Molano and his colleagues at the DPWH bids and awards committee (BAC) held three rounds of bidding for two World Bank-funded road projects in Mindanao and the Visayas.

Each time, all the bids exceeded estimated costs by wide margins. Each time, virtually the same set of construction companies won the first and second rounds.

The road projects were part of Phase 1 of the \$305-million National Road Improvement and Management Project (NRIMP) that the World Bank was supporting with a \$150-million loan. Unhappy with the high bids, the World Bank rejected the bid outcomes not once or twice, but thrice.

The DPWH went to great lengths to boost competition in the bidding for the road-building projects. At one point, "an independent call line outside the DPWH was

Aid for Whom?

The dual nature of overseas development assistance (ODA) loans as both foreign aid and support for businesses in the lending country has taken an interesting, if confusing, turn in the case of loans and guarantees provided by the United Kingdom.

[more...](#)

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The Perils and Pitfalls of Aid : 7 in 10 ODA projects fail to deliver touted benefits

By ROEL R. LANDINGIN
Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

Last of Three Parts

At least seven in 10 projects funded by Official Development Assistance (ODA) loans have failed to deliver their touted benefits and results, according to a six-month study of project documents conducted by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ).

Stories about "white elephants" -- grand but unfinished or unused public works projects, such as the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in the '80s to the Telepono sa Barangay program in recent years abound. Yet many more ODA-funded projects disappoint, even after completion and roll-out.

Project completion and post-evaluation reports on scores of projects bankrolled by the Philippines' top three lenders show that 73 percent of completed foreign-assisted projects fell below estimates of economic benefits made during appraisal stage.

A Toll Tale

A year or so ago, Manolito Madrasto, the executive director of the Philippine Contractors' Association (PCA), spent an entire day counting vehicles passing through the Olongapo-Gapan road. "It was crazy," he says. "I just sat there alone in a McDonald's restaurant while trying to count the vehicles on the road."

According to Madrasto, the government had agreed to the PCA's request for the second phase of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, which would extend the new toll road to San Fernando in La Union province, to be implemented as a build-operate-transfer (BOT) project with government subsidy. The first phase, in contrast, was funded by Japanese Official Development Aid (ODA).

TODAY'S POLL:

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Arroyo neglect, government infighting jeopardize RP territorial claim

Monday, 24 March 2008

NEGLECT by President Gloria Arroyo and squabbles over turf and money have derailed government efforts to establish the country's new archipelagic baseline, and may jeopardize the Philippines' claim over resource-rich Spratlys that fall within its extended continental shelf.

With a year left before the May 13, 2009 deadline for filing its claim for an extended continental shelf under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Philippines is nowhere near completing the studies, surveys and report required to bolster the country's claim over its extended territory.

The UNCLOS, which the Philippines ratified 24 years ago, requires coastal states to declare their extended continental shelf, which is the underwater extension of the land.

In Congress, lawmakers are debating a redefined archipelagic baseline bill. Although there is no deadline to the filing of a country's archipelagic baseline with the UN, it is, however, going to be the basis for measuring all maritime regimes or zones: territorial sea (12 nautical miles from the baseline), contiguous zone (24 nm), economic exclusive zone (200 nm), continental shelf (200 nm) and extended continental shelf (350 nm).

The drafting of the country's claim under the UNCLOS is a tale of infighting



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Expression



The Manila Blog Times

REPORTING ON THE PHILIPPINE BLOGOSPHERE

FRONT PAGE NEWS OPINION ABOUT ARCHIVES

Sunday, April 20, 2008

News

Anti-Arroyo Protests Go Online

While thousands of protesters took to the streets yesterday to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of EDSA People Power Revolution and call for President Gloria Arroyo's resignation, a number of bloggers echoed these sentiments in cyberspace.

Participants in the Gloria Resign blogswarm that was initiated by Jen Llarena of Etcetera Etcetera posted images and messages calling for Arroyo's resignation. Today is the second day of the campaign, which is also dubbed as Electronic Data Swarm Against Arroyo (EDSA) wave 1.0.

Among the participants in the blogswarm campaign are The Pedestrian Observer, All That Blogs, All Summers Disease, Bayan ni Kabayan, Tambayan ni Paeng, and Apol the Great.

Editor @ February 26, 2008 |

3 Comments

a. PETERAHON

February 26, 2008 @ 8:02 pm
mabuhay!

this is an addition to the list of the bloggers protesting:

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Editorial

Hello world!

LATEST ARTICLE

Download the latest anti-Arroyo protest ringtone!

BY TONYO / FEBRUARY 22ND, 2008 / NEWS



Click [here](#) to download the Lozada_Souljaboy ringtone.

If that doesn't work, try [clicking here](#).

To download, right-click on any of the two links and choose "Save Link As" or "Save Target As".

Use it to express your protest against Mrs. Arroyo and your support for Jun Lozada.

The ringtone was made by multimedia group SIPAT for the youth coalition [YOUTH ACT NOW!](#)

ABOUT US

TXTPower is an organization of cellphone users that aims to empower Filipinos both as consumers and as citizens.

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INSTANT SEARCH

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[TXTPower blasts text rumors, pins blame on Arroyos' dirty tricks dept.](#)

BY TONYO / FEBRUARY 8TH, 2008 / NEWS

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The Marocharim Experiment

Volume Seven: Deus Ex Cybernetica

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Resistance, Now

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March 27th. 2008, 3:42am

I never asked you for anything before. I'm not asking you to do anything that will get you into trouble, or send you to jail. All I am asking you is to resist.

Before anything else, an apology is in order. I have to apologize for my rather caustic and violent statements over the past few days, here in my site and at [Patriots4Truth](#). There are a lot of things I should learn, both as a writer and as a person. I believe in open communication, but there are a lot of things I myself should learn about respect. I apologize for anyone I may have hurt in my tirades over the past few days. I hold myself personally responsible for whatever damage this brief altercation may have caused. It behooves me - not as an act of conscience, but as an act of respect - to apologize for the tone of my statements.

However, I do not - **and I cannot** - retract the meaning I intended for my statements. I will stand by the essence of those statements: that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should be held accountable not only for the NBN-ZTE controversy, but for the "Hello Garci" scandal of the 2004 national elections.

This is why I call upon you to resist. I do not care how you do it. Just resist.

If you remain blind to the crimes, the shortcomings, and the betrayals of this government, you do nothing but to concede and to consent and to tolerate what we have now. In this "free country," we do not have the right to information: the Supreme Court of the Philippines has just ruled in favor of Sec. Romulo Neri invoking "executive privilege" on the NBN-ZTE deal, paralyzing our common search for truth. In this "booming economy," there are many of us who do not reap the rewards of what is supposed to be a stronger peso. In this country "governed by the rule of law," the President circumvents it by passing executive orders against dissent and criticism.

Which basically means that we are not free. Our economy is not booming. Our country is governed not by law, certainly not by justice, but by a disregard for the law and a disavowal of justice.

I am not here to explain or excuse an outburst of anger. But I ask you this: are you not angry? Are you not enraged? The rich get richer and the poor get poorer, the powerful become ever more powerful and the

ABOUT ME

My name is Marck Ronald Rimorin: student, sort-of-anthropologist, sort-of-social-critic, freelancer, blogger. "Writing about anything" is a hypothesis: here, I put it to the test.

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Mar

17

Posted on 17-03-2008

Oplan evil 200

Filed Under ([Commentary](#)) by Floyd

The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.- Albert Einstein

There is this thing that I usually do when I get hold of a 200 peso bill.

I draw horns and a tail and write the words "EVIL" on the picture of GMA being sworn to office in EDSA 2.

I say to myself the hell, whenever somebody would read this it will give them something to talk about or perhaps ask themselves why somebody placed this.

Call it my own way of protesting against the government.

The rationale behind it is simple, I'd like to let the people know that the person in the money doesn't deserve to be in it. As I see it the money was used for propaganda and it is a symbolic approach to power in the hands of everybody.

Call me a semiotics fan but there is power when it comes to symbols. A professor friend of mine who handles Anthropology in U.P. told me how important symbols are in the development of culture and language.

As such a peoples clamor for change for example in EDSA 1 was triggered by the symbol L for laban as well as the color yellow.

April 2008

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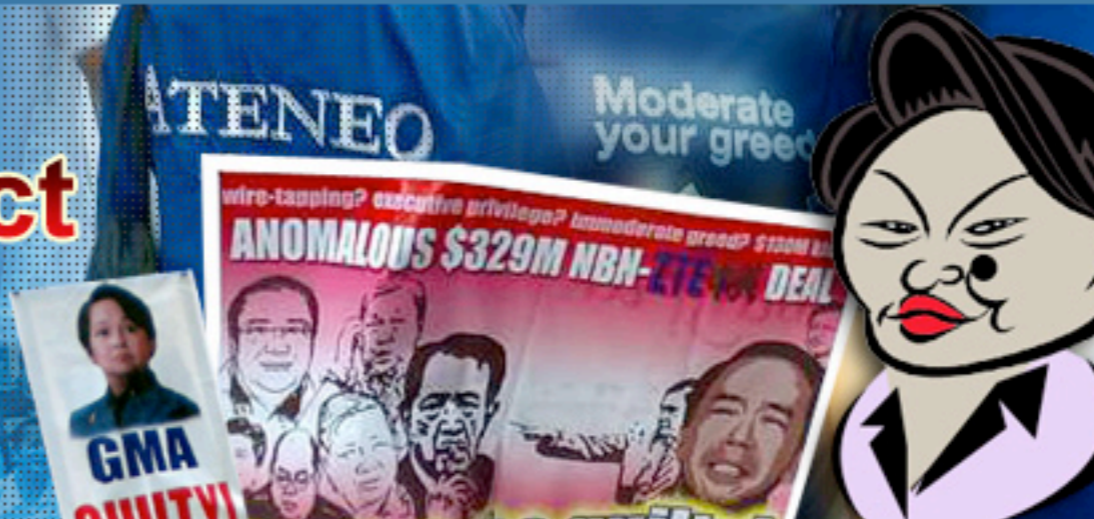
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The aim of Ateneans Act is to have the views and values of the Ateneo alumni and community influence the course of reforming Philippine society.

ONE BIG FIGHT!

Ateneans Act!

Written by Administrator

Friday, 07 March 2008



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Announcements

The Women of Ateneo (TWA) invites you to a gathering among friends, among fellow alums. On Friday March 14, 2008 at 4:00 P.M. (to 8:30 P.M.), we will gather some of our fellow Ateneans in government (past and present) to take us into their world so that we can better understand how government works



Advocacy



mlq3

[@kevinraychua](#): government tells us june-july are lean months.

about 4 hours ago from web in reply to kevinraychua ☆ 🗑

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The 6 justices who dissented-carpio, puno, santiago, carpio-morales, azcuna, martinez. To be confirmd 02:23 PM March 25, 2008 from txt ☆ 🗑

Supreme Court votes 9-6 in favor of executive privilage that GMA-Neri talks are secret. 02:01 PM March 25, 2008 from txt ☆ 🗑

amused that on am radio, the euphemism for wiener is "chairman" 03:50 PM March 14, 2008 from web ☆ 🗑

iglesia ni cristo has a church in rome! imagine that. 03:48 PM March 14, 2008 from web ☆ 🗑

Gma organizing sk to go head to head with schools. Sk wil b brot to palace n oferd bigr budget. 04:30 PM March 13, 2008 from txt ☆ 🗑

thads bentulan's ppt on nbn-zte: <http://tinyurl.com/3cqn6h> 06:18 PM March

About

Name Manuel L. Quezon III

Location Quezon City

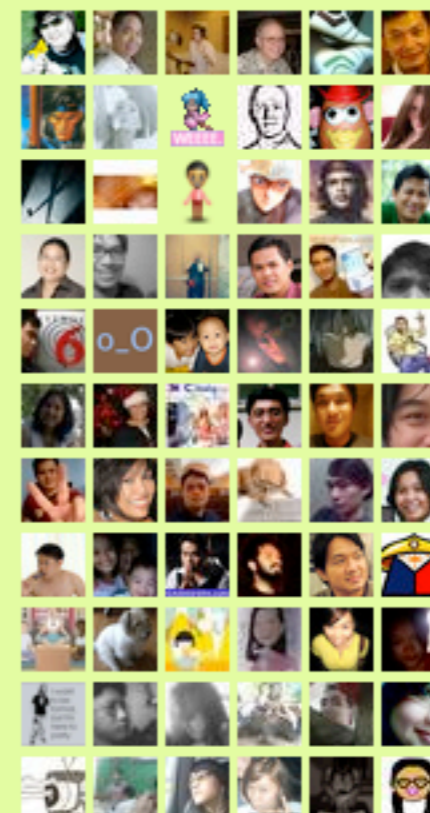
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Team RP Petition for a Freedom of Access to Information Law

Mar 12, '08 2:50 AM
for everyone

"Secrecy breeds irregularity, fraud, and crime. It allows chicanery, graft, and corruption... A democracy based on ignorance, on misinformation, on conjectures, on suspicion is doomed to fail. The more enlightenment the people have, the more guarantee there is for their success in their collective enterprises, and in the fulfillment of their social aspirations and purposes." – Justice Gregorio Perfecto

From the de Venecia-Lozada expose, the Hello Garci scandal, and the Spratlys mind-boggler to the North and South Rail questions, events of the recent past clearly highlight how very little we know about the workings of our government, how much difficulty is involved in getting truth to come out and how, albeit fundamental in any republican and democratic state that the government is accountable to the public, we Filipinos are in reality denied direct access to our government institutions and our public servants. As a country that prides itself with democracy, it strikes us with a disquieting reality that we Filipinos have no real access to information to empower us to properly and actively participate in governance.

We in TEAM RP believe that in order for there to be a responsible citizenry that can actively and meaningfully craft the future of the country, there is a need to give teeth to the policy of full public disclosure and the right of the people to be informed as contained in the fundamental law of the land. Moreover, we are aware that if people, especially those who have been bypassed by development, are unaware of laws and procedures for availing themselves of their entitlements or of mechanisms they can use to remedy their plight, then they will always remain poor.

Let us call on our lawmakers to make top priority the passage of a Philippine Access to Information Law which, subject to reasonable and clearly outlined conditions, ensures unfettered access of the people to information of public concern, including government transactions involving public interest.

We urge our lawmakers, let us not delay this any further.

If you support our petition and call for the passage of a Philippine Access to Information Law, you can join and help us in any of the following ways:

a.) **Sign our petition online** by emailing "I Support the Campaign for a Philippine Access to Information Law" together with your complete name and contact information to team.rp.pail@gmail.com

b.) **Forward our statement** to your friends and post it in your website, blog, friendster, multiply or facebook account for all your friends to read.



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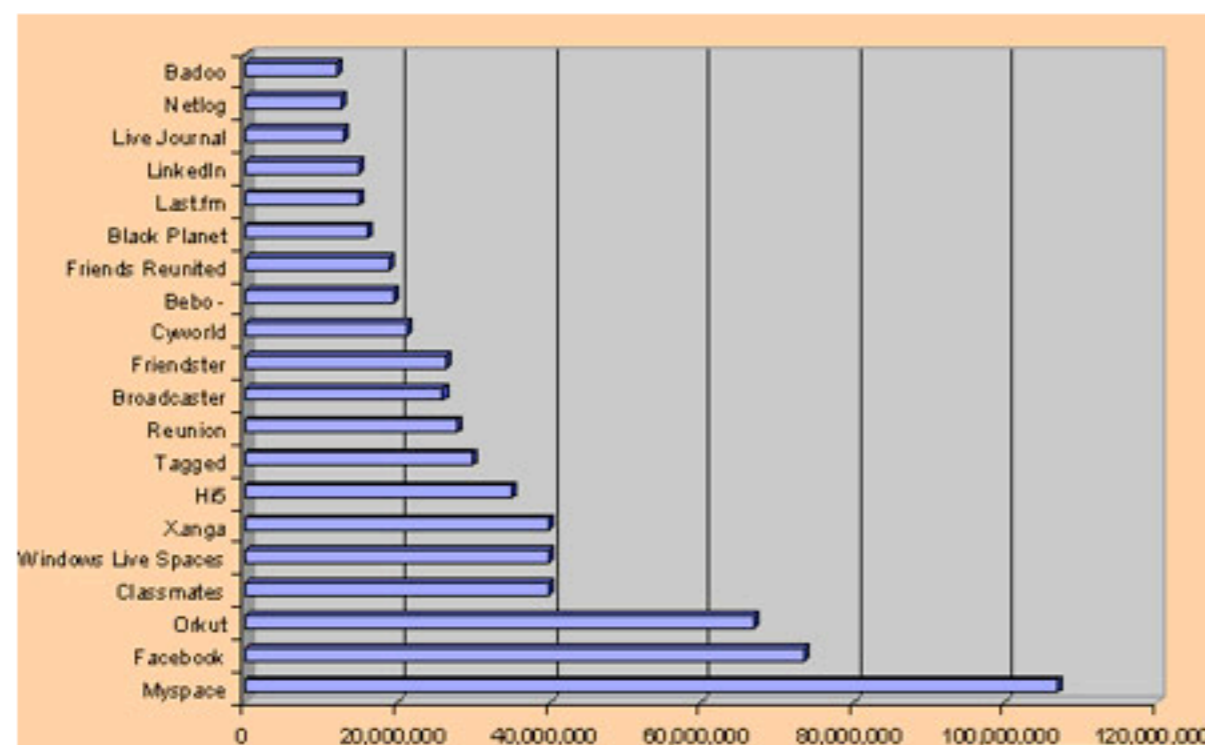
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Top 49 social networking sites

Posted by **dessie** November 16, 2007

Graph 1 shows the top 20 social networking sites based on the number of registered users.

MySpace continues to top the list with 107,000,000 users, followed by Facebook at 73,500,000, Orkut at 67M, Classmates, Windows Live Spaces, and Xanga at 40M, and the rest follows.



Graph1. Top 20 Social Networking Sites

Of the 76 social networking sites, 49 of them have generated millions of users.

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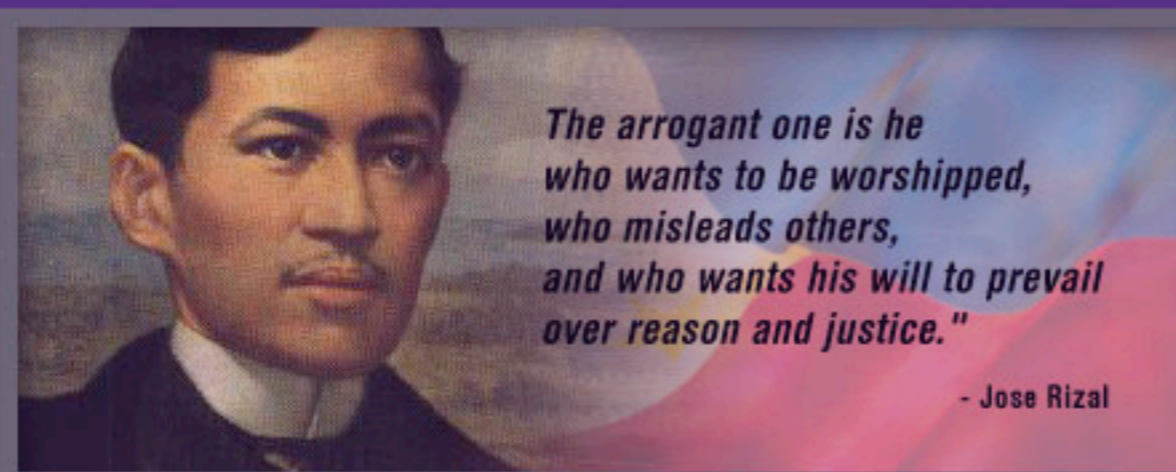
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The INCITEGov PGD Framework

Wednesday, 05 March 2008

Beginnings are inventions of the present moment, and the moment does not stand still. This does not of course make them untrue. It is the tracing of beginnings that enables us to satisfy the unrelenting need to embrace widths of time and space, to feel their coherence even if this must be configured again and again.

🌿 **Resil Mojares, Brains of the Nation**

The Philippines has gone through two (2) People Power uprisings that once held the world in awe of a nation's determination towards democracy. Despite these shining moments in history, Filipinos have failed to attain the outcomes promised by democracy. National

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PGD

GMA ORDERED SUSPENSION OF LOANS FOR CYBER-ED, 11 ODA PROJECTS

MANILA, FEBRUARY 20, 2008 (STAR) By Paolo Romero - President Arroyo ordered yesterday concerned government agencies to stop the procurement of official development assistance (ODA) for 11 big-ticket projects, including the controversial Cyber-Education Project (CEP) worth P104 billion, and have them implemented instead through local financing.

Mrs. Arroyo gave the directive during the Procurement Transparency Group-National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)-Cabinet Group meeting in Malacañang, amid allegations of huge government kickbacks in major foreign-funded projects, including the scrapped \$329-million national broadband network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp.

She also directed Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. to hold talks with foreign funding agencies to put a uniform set of standards for securing ODA and avoid controversies that may derail big projects.

Andaya disclosed that civil society groups, including the Makati Business Club and the Transparency and Accountability Network, have identified 24 major projects that they will monitor closely against corruption.

"We are putting on hold all ODA loans which are not yet finalized... We can do these (projects) without borrowing," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye quoted the President as saying during the meeting.

Bunye denied the move was an off-shoot of the ZTE scandal that forced former Commissioner on Elections chairman Benjamin Abalos to resign following stormy Senate hearings into the alleged overpriced deal.

He said that during a review of ODA-funded projects, Mrs. Arroyo stressed that since the government has "sufficient funds" due to fiscal reforms, it would be better to do the projects using local funds.

"Unless the (ODA funding) has been consummated, the general rule is we will fund these projects with locally-generated funds," Bunye said.

"For the first time, the problem is not the funding so we would like to maximize the utilization of funds which we have generated through fiscal reforms," he said.

Mrs. Arroyo's order affected 11 of 23 projects under the NEDA Comprehensive and Integrated Infrastructure Program. These are the New Communications, Navigation, Surveillance and Air Traffic Management Systems Development Project worth P2.64 billion; Regionalization of Mental Health Services (P1.32 billion); Phase 2 of the redevelopment of the Tacloban Airport (P1.12 billion);

Construction of elementary and secondary classrooms in areas with acute shortage (P45.6 million); CyberEd project (P26.48 billion); LRT Line 1 South Extension (P27.32 billion); Mainline South Railway project for the Luzon Urban Beltway (P15.3 billion); LRT Line 2 Extension (P10.33 billion); Bataan-Manila pipeline project (P7.2 billion); LRT Line 1 North Extension Project (P5.98 billion); and the Angat Water Utilization and Aqueduct Improvement Project Phase 2 (P5.75 billion).

The amount is equivalent to half of the government's total infrastructure budget for 2008, although no counterpart funding was allocated this year for these projects since their ODA financing has yet to be finalized.

Some ODA-funded projects, including the NBN, have been problematic for the Arroyo administration. The NBN-ZTE scandal prompted

Old & New

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FEBRUARY 29, 2008



Thank you!

Manuel L. Quezon III

PUNDITRY. POLITICS. HISTORY. COMMENTARY.



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The "Windfall" Revenue Controversy (1937-1941): A Perspective on Philippine Commonwealth History by Satoshi Nakano: commonwealth funds windfall debate.PDF

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17 APRIL 2008 :
On Civil Disobedience

My column for today was inspired by Mahar Mangahas' column, The important right of civil disobedience, which had these interesting findings, based on the 2004 Survey on Citizenship of the International Social Survey Program, which makes possible a comparison of Filipino attitudes and behavior to that of other peoples, particularly in our part of the [...]

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